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## First Lady Martha Shelly Warms Homes for the Winter Season

**SANOSTEE, N.M.** – As the sun dropped behind the western mountains near the chapter house, Efrem John, 38, waited nearly a half hour in line to load his car trunk full of wood.

Giving chopped wood to community members was part of the First Lady Martha Shelly's Winter Community Outreach Fair held Tuesday at the chapter house. Another fair was held on Monday in Pinon, Ariz.

"This coming weekend is going to get cold and windy," John said, adding that he was down to two small logs to keep his family of five warm.

Throughout the two days, more than 150 families were given wood and 100 turkeys were handed to people between both communities.

Also, about 18 cords of wood was given out, which was gathered over four days by different Navajo Nation offices.

"We know that people are in need all throughout the Navajo Nation," President Shelly said adding that he wished he could help each Navajo family.

"If we had the resources, we would help each and every Navajo family out there," he said.



President Ben Shelly gets his flu shot at the Winter Community Outreach Fair in Pinon on Monday.

But the wood and turkey distribution was just one aspect of the Winter Community Outreach Fair.

The primary reason for the fair was to bring Navajo Nation services to the people directly.

President Shelly said he's heard Navajo people say they've been told to go to Window Rock to get help after trying to get help locally.

"With the help of the First Lady, we decided to bring Window Rock to them," President Shelly said.

Along with staff from various divisions, he also brought a semi-truck loaded with wood gathered near Sawmill, Ariz.



The Winter Outreach Fair gave out 100 turkeys in two days.

Julia Curley, 30, of Sanostee also waited in line to get a load of wood.

Curley said she was thankful the Navajo Nation was helping distribute wood.

She said she is a single mother living with her young grandchildren and 88-year-old mother.

"We don't have the man power to get us woods. It's hard for us to get woods," she said.

The wood was gathered by a host of Navajo Nation offices including: Facilities Maintenance, Forestry Department, Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Tax Commission, Division of Human Resources, Division of Social Services and the Office of the President and Vice President.

"The whole idea of this outreach fair was for the Navajo tribal employees to give back to the communities," said the First Lady.

President Shelly agreed and said added that the offices also learned about the services offered by the Navajo Nation too.

"This is what we mean by teamwork," the President said.

On Monday in Pinon, Ariz., 19 different tables set up with brochures, leaflets, pamphlets, and poster board displays to help distribute information. Nearly all represented Navajo Nation divisions or offices within the divisions.

"We want the Navajo people to know how we can help them," Martha Shelly said.



About 50 Navajo Nation employees from seven different departments helped load and cut about 118 cords of wood.

One booth included the Division of Health, which were giving out flu shots to the public.

President Shelly lined up and got his flu shot, followed by his wife.

“We need to take care of ourselves,” he said.

More than 100 people attended the fair in Pinon.

One of the people who received their flu shot was Sheila Thomas, 24, of Ganado.

Thomas, who plans to graduate from Stanford University next year, recently came back to the Navajo Nation to spend Thanksgiving with her family.

“I think it’s really good that they’re putting on programs like this,” she said.

Thomas said the people she encountered with the different divisions were helpful and friendly.

As for John, who also loaded wood in the rear seats in his car, said he was thankful for all the help.

“We all need to help each other out,” he said.

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Efrem John, 38, loads wood into the back seat of his car Tuesday night at Sanostee. “Thanks for Ben Shelly for doing this.” he said.